

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 03772 060915Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08
COME-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 (ISO) W
-----121677 061025Z /17

O 060820Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9707
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USICA FOR AF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PDEV, RH, TZ
SUBJ: RHODESIA: POST-FRONTLINE SUMMIT PRESS COVERAGE

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1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: TANZANIAN PRESS IN LAST FEW DAYS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION TO LUSAKA FRONTLINE SUMMIT ON RHODESIA AND ITS AFTERMATH. EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS OF SEPTEMBER 5 FOLLOWED ON PRESIDENT NYERERE'S SEPTEMBER 3 PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE SAID THAT PATRIOTIC FRONT'S TALKS WITH SMITH SHOULD BE BROKEN OFF BECAUSE OF SMITH'S TRICKERY. ACCOMPANYING FRONT-PAGE LEAD ARTICLE REPORTED JOSHUA
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NKOMO'S SEPTEMBER 4 STATEMENTS IN LUSAKA THAT HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT FURTHER TALKS WITH SMITH AND THAT TANZANIA SHOULD NOT INTERFERE. TWO MAJOR THEMES STAND OUT CLEARLY THUS FAR IN TANZANIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF NKOMO-SMITH MEETING: (A) NKOMO IF HE GOES AHEAD, ALONE WITH SMITH, WILL BE RUINED POLITICALLY AS HAVE BEEN MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE; AND (B) THE ZIMBABWE STRUGGLE IS TO CHANGE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE

COUNTRY, NOT JUST RULING PERSONALITIES. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

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2. EDITORIAL EXPRESSED BACK-HANDED SYMPATHY FOR MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE FOR HAVING BEEN "LURED INTO A MINORITY REGIME FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DESTROYING THEIR POLITICAL CAREERS." SMITH WAS A CROOK WHO HELD ONTO POWER USING ONE PLOT AFTER ANOTHER. "HOWEVER, HIS LATEST PLOT - THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT PLAN - APPEARS TO BE HIS LAST ACT ON THE RHODESIAN STAGE. LIKE THE CONJURER WHO GETS CARRIED AWAY BY HIS OWN TRICKS, SMITH IS NOW CAUGHT UP IN HIS OWN ACT." EDITORIAL CONTINUED THAT SMITH WAS WRONG TO THINK HE COULD ENLIST THE LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THEN DITCH THEM AS HE HAD MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE. "THE PATRIOTIC FRONT STATES (SIC) HAVE PULLED THE RUG UNDER HIS FEET."

3. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED: "THE ISSUE IN ZIMBABWE IS NOT THE INSTALLATION OF THIS OR THAT PERSON AS PRESIDENT OF ZIMBABWE; BUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE REBEL REGIME AND ITS INSTITUTIONS LEADING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENUINE INDEPENDENCE UNDER A GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY. IN THE MEANTIME, IT IS A FIGHT TO THE FINISH - UNLESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS CAN PERSUADE THE REBEL TO ACCEPT THE OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH THE WAR IS BEING FOUGHT. BUT WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THE REBEL WILL NOT SURRENDER ON THE CONFERENCE TABLE OR AT SECRET MEETINGS WHAT HE HAS NOT YET LOST ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

4. DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN PRESIDENT NYERERE AND NKOMO WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN FRONT-PAGE ACCOUNT OF STATEMENTS MADE BY NKOMO IN LUSAKA. NKOMO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "NYERERE IS NOT THE FINAL AUTHORITY ON WHAT HAPPENS IN ZIMBABWE. WE WILL DISCUSS WHAT NEXT STEP WE CAN TAKE AND THAT STEP WE THINK IS APPROPRIATE WE SHALL TAKE." THE STORY INCLUDED NKOMO'S REMARKS THAT NYERERE "CANNOT TELL ME WHAT I MUST DO" AND THAT TANZANIA IS NO LONGER A FRONTLINE STATE AS IT HAS NO BORDERS WITH WHITE-RULED SOUTHERN AFRICA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DARES03772
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780362-0653
Format: TEL
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780999/aaaadecj.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e84fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1534805
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: POST-FRONTLINE SUMMIT PRESS COVERAGE BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: SOPN, PDEV, RH, TZ
To: STATE ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e84fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014